

WE CLAIM:

- 1 1. A method in a computing system for managing inventory, the method
2 comprising:
3 extracting inventory balance information in a first form that is associated with
4 a first source computerized inventory management system;
5 converting the inventory balance information in the first form into inventory
6 balance information that is in a second intermediate form; and
7 converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form
8 into inventory balance information in a target form that corresponds to
9 a target computerized inventory management system.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an
3 existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory
4 management system.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 extracting inventory balance information in a third form that is associated with
3 a second source computerized inventory management system that is
4 distinct from the first source computerized inventory management
5 system;
6 converting the inventory balance information in the third form into inventory
7 balance information that is in the second intermediate form;

8 converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form
9 into inventory balance information in the target form; and
10 using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an
11 existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory
12 management system.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second intermediate form includes a list
2 of inventory balances class with a hierarchy of data elements.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the hierarchy of data elements includes a
2 plurality of inventory balance elements that include other elements.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance
2 elements includes a related inventory location element for defining related
3 inventory location identifier.

4 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance
5 elements includes a list of inventory balance data element for defining a
6 plurality of inventory balance data elements.

1 9. The method of Claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance
2 elements includes an inventory balance custom data.

1 10. The method of Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance
2 data elements includes a related product element for defining a product
3 identifier.

1 11. The method of Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance
2 data elements includes a list of balance data element for defining a plurality of
3 balance data elements.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of balance data
2 elements includes:

3 a bucket code element;
4 a quantity of product element;
5 a product unit of measure code element; and
6 a balance data custom data element.

1 13. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
2 for managing inventory, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of
3 instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to
4 perform:

5 extracting inventory balance information in a first form that is associated with
6 a first source computerized inventory management system;
7 converting the inventory balance information in the first form into inventory
8 balance information that is in a second intermediate form; and
9 converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form
10 into inventory balance information in a target form that corresponds to
11 a target computerized inventory management system.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, further comprising:
2 using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an
3 existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory
4 management system.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, further comprising:
2 extracting inventory balance information in a third form that is associated with
3 a second source computerized inventory management system that is
4 distinct from the first source computerized inventory management
5 system;
6 converting the inventory balance information in the third form into inventory
7 balance information that is in the second intermediate form;
8 converting the inventory balance information in the second intermediate form
9 into inventory balance information in the target form; and
10 using the inventory balance information in the target form to update an
11 existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory
12 management system.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the second
2 intermediate form includes a list of inventory balances class with a hierarchy
3 of data elements.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein the hierarchy of data
2 elements includes a plurality of inventory balance elements that include other
3 elements.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory balance elements includes a related inventory location element for
3 defining related inventory location identifier.

- 4 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of
5 inventory balance elements includes a list of inventory balance data element
6 for defining a plurality of inventory balance data elements.
- 1 21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory balance elements includes an inventory balance custom data.
- 1 22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory balance data elements includes a related product element for
3 defining a product identifier.
- 1 23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory balance data elements includes a list of balance data element for
3 defining a plurality of balance data.
- 1 24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of
2 balance data elements includes:
3 a bucket code element;
4 a quantity of product element;
5 a product unit of measure code element; and
6 a balance data custom data element.
- 1 25. A data structure for managing inventory, the data structure comprising a list of
2 inventory balances class with a hierarchy of data elements, wherein the
3 hierarchy of data elements includes a plurality of inventory balance elements
4 that include other elements.

- 1 26. The data structure of Claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of inventory
2 balance elements includes a related inventory location element for defining
3 related inventory location identifier.
- 4 27. The data structure of Claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of inventory
5 balance elements includes a list of inventory balance data element for
6 defining a plurality of inventory balance data elements.
- 1 29. The data structure of Claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of inventory
2 balance elements includes an inventory balance custom data.
- 1 30. The data structure of Claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of inventory
2 balance data elements includes a related product element for defining a
3 product identifier.
- 1 31. The data structure of Claim 27, wherein each of the plurality of inventory
2 balance data elements includes a list of balance data element for defining a
3 plurality of balance data.
- 1 32. The data structure of Claim 31, wherein each of the plurality of balance data
2 elements includes:
3 a bucket code element;
4 a quantity of product element;
5 a product unit of measure code element; and
6 a balance data custom data element.